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FLOOR DEBATE

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pointed out the individuals who collaborated to bring us this particular bill. Too often I think people are taken for granted who do very essential, necessary work, without which the system cannot function. I don't think it hurts at all for us periodically to acknowledge what employees do who really are dedicated in doing their job, to express our appreciation in the same way we would want it expressed toward us. Whenever I become aware of something that an employee has done I will acknowledge it to that person, but I'm not aware of everything that every employee does. But when something of the magnitude of the case I've just discussed, and which Senator Dwite Pedersen touched on also, comes to our attention more should be done than just to do justice to the employee. There should be a tongue lashing given to the appropriate bureaucrats. If I were the Governor, which I'm not, this issue, if it saw the light of day, would have been corrected by me immediately. I would not allow my administration to carry the taint of having cheated an employee out of something to which the employee was entitled. Instead of encouraging those who do the state's work to be alert and vigilant, this example may very well cause people to say, I'm going to go to work, I'm going to punch in, when time comes to punch out I'm gone. I'm not going to do anything more than the minimum required of me. They don't treat me like a person. They don't appreciate what I do. I don't get paid what they get paid and then they can step on me in this fashion? I'm not going to show any of what they call initiative. Our employees could adopt the philosophy of the sensitive stomach. You can put anything in it that you want to, but that sensitive stomach has a way of taking its revenge and will punish you for having put into it that which it is not of a mind to accept and hold on to. So we will, in the Business and Labor Committee, have an opportunity to discuss this and, if the Governor has people who follow what the Legislature is doing, it would be good if he would take the initiative to make our work unnecessary. But whether he does not or not, we, as a Legislature, must exercise oversight and this is one of those instances. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Coordsen, you're recognized to close on the advancement of LB 860.